

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic HUGH McCULLOCH HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 616 West Superior _____ not for publication

city, town Fort Wayne _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Fourth

state Indiana code 18 county Allen code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name ARCH, Inc.

street & number Box 1383

city, town Fort Wayne _____ vicinity of _____ state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen County Recorder's Office

street & number City-County Building, One Main Street

city, town Fort Wayne _____ state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Indiana Historic Sites and
title Structures Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979 _____ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local ☒

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Indianapolis _____ state Indiana

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

When Hugh McCulloch decided to build a country estate, he purchased a tract of approximately one hundred acres, two miles west of the town of Fort Wayne (population c. 2500). Aside from neighboring farms, the property was bounded on the north and west by the St. Mary's River, and on the south by the newly-constructed Wabash and Erie Canal. The house was sited on the highest point, with a broad front lawn extending down to the banks of the canal, and a steep slope behind, above the riverbank. Orchards were planted on either side of the house.

The Creek Revival style house was designed by local architect Henry Williams, and constructed in 1843. The brick structure was a simple rectangular mass three bays wide, four bays long and two stories tall. Beneath the low pediment on the main (south) facade, a portico of four square piers sheltered tall shuttered windows and an entrance in the easternmost bay. Flanking the house on either side were open one-story porches, which combined with the central pavilion to give the house a grand aspect when viewed from the canal.

The house was actually of rather modest size (25 by 35 feet), though of palatial scale for its time and location. In 1862, an Italianate addition was constructed. At perhaps this same time, the east porch was enclosed in glass and became a conservatory. As shown in a perspective view of 1880, the rear addition was a rectangular mass five bays long and two bays deep, which extended across the rear of the original house, and two bays beyond the west. The hipped roof of the addition covered the original rear gable and terminated at the old ridge-line; a two-story polygonal bay on the north elevation was aligned with the centerline of the existing house. The west end of the addition boasted a three-story campanile with round-arched windows and a low pyramidal roof.

Such was the appearance of the house while it was owned by Hugh McCullough and later by his son Charles. In 1887, Charles sold the house and divided the property into housing tracts. After brief ownership by three other individuals, the house was purchased in 1892 by the Fort Wayne College of Medicine.

The College drastically expanded and remodeled the house. The original tripartite plan was retained and expanded into a tee through the use of gable segments in place of the 1862 addition. The roof of the original house was removed, and the central mass was lengthened and enlarged to three stories covered by a more steeply pitched roof. The original portico was replaced by the present Roman Doric portico to match the new elevation. The side porches were removed and replaced by enclosed two-story wings with flat roofs.

Greater knowledge of the alterations made at this time is precluded by the fact that 14 years later, in 1906, the College sold the property to the Turnverein Verwoerts, or Turners' Club, who again remodeled the building to serve new requirements, putting it in its present form.

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Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

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The Turners reinforced the structure and completely removed most of the interior walls in the west wing and central mass in order to create a two-story gymnasium. Access to the second floor of the east wing was maintained by constructing a mezzanine down the east bay of the central mass. Operable partitions beneath the mezzanine were added to allow a lounge in the first floor of the east wing to be opened into the gymnasium. Also, the north wall of the gymnasium was removed, and a square two-story addition, containing a proscenium stage, basement shower rooms and two floors of offices, was added.

Today the exterior of the building appears as a massive two-story painted brick structure, with the dominant feature being the two-story portico on the south facade. Four fluted Doric columns support the pediment, with simple modillions and dentils on the projecting cornice. The tympanum is filled in with fish-scale shingles. The main entrance, centered in the projecting entrance bay, is pedimented, and flanked by fluted pilasters. A rectangular transom light is located above the door; the wood door is fairly modern, with one small window. Ornate light fixtures are above the door and on the two outermost columns.

Windows on the main facade are doublehung with stone sills; the taller first floor sash have been boarded. The only other decorative exterior feature is a plain frieze on the Greek Revival cross-gable, which continues around the flat-roofed corner additions.

The gable formed by the pediment continues the length of the building, creating a low clapboard-sided third story that projects above the flat roofs of the additions.

A one story, concrete block addition is attached to the west side.

The Turners owned the McCulloch House until 1966. After a brief interval as a poster factory, the property was bought by a labor union, whose concessionaire operated the building as a union hall until 1975. At that time the property was repossessed by Anthony Wayne Bank, which donated it to Arch, Inc., in 1978.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1843

Builder Architect Henry Williams

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Hugh McCulloch House in the first 30 years of its existence stems from its first owner, Hugh McCulloch (1808-1895). McCulloch was one of the most prominent financiers and bankers of his time. Born and educated in New England, he came to Indiana in 1835. He was appointed cashier and manager of the Fort Wayne branch of the State Bank of Indiana in 1835, holding this position until 1857. In 1863, McCulloch joined President Lincoln's Cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury. He served in this position through the succeeding Johnson Administration and later under Chester Arthur as well.

Though a conservative man, McCulloch opposed slavery and became a Republican. Financial expertise rather than party devotion brought him to national prominence in 1863. Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, appointed him Comptroller of the Currency, in which capacity McCulloch oversaw the establishment of the national banking system which we have today. As Secretary of the Treasury in the last days of the Civil War, McCulloch was conservative but flexible enough to resist the truly bearish forces on Wall Street. His policies were sometimes daring, as when he chose to buy United States Bonds with Treasury money at the time of Lincoln's assassination to avert panic on Wall Street. After Lincoln's assassination, McCulloch remained in Johnson's cabinet, battling Congress in an attempt to retire the greenbacks issued by the government during the Civil War. When he left office in 1869, he became a partner in a London banking house and then served briefly (1884-1885) as President Arthur's Secretary of the Treasury. He retired to Prince George's County, Maryland, and died there in 1895.

The Hugh McCulloch House remained in the family until 1887. From 1892 to 1906 it served as the quarters for the Fort Wayne College of Medicine, which was founded as a result of a faculty controversy over the issue of human dissection. This new medical school was founded on August 22, 1879, by those who "were interested in improving medical education and believed that without the minute study of human anatomy through dissection, medicine would not progress" (Indiana Medical History Quarterly, Vol III, No. 1). The catalogue of 1892 reveals that women were admitted as students on the same basis as men. It also states that the college had become the medical department of Taylor University in 1890. This affiliation was discontinued when Taylor University was moved to Upland, Indiana. The Medical College was a member of the Association of American Medical Colleges and the course of instruction embraced four separate sessions of eight months each. In October, 1905, the students and faculty traveled to Indianapolis as an academic body, and merger with Purdue University was accomplished.

While it housed the Fort Wayne College of Medicine, the house was remodeled to contain a dispensary, pharmacy, waiting room for outpatients, a large amphitheater, three lecture rooms, a reading room for students, faculty rooms, museum, and laboratories for anatomy, chemistry, histology, pathology and bacteriology.

(1/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1906, the house was taken over by the Turnverein Verwoerts Hall Association (after 1941 known as the Fort Wayne Turners), who held it for sixty years. This German fraternal organization used the House as a lodge and social center and modified the house significantly by gutting the original and west wings to create a gymnasium. The Turners were particularly significant as a civic group because Fort Wayne's population at that time was 60 percent German. The Turners left the house in 1966. Since that time it has been held by two organizations who used it for offices and as a meeting place: The Fort Wayne Poster Corporation and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Local 723). The building has stood vacant since 1975, but it is a reminder of Fort Wayne's major link to the Civil War and the Lincoln Administration through Hugh McCulloch, of a pioneering educational institution, the Fort Wayne College of Medicine, and of the Turners, an organization which represents Fort Wayne's ethnic German heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Wayne West, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The West 35 feet of Lot 1, all of Lot 2, and the East 10 feet of Lot 3 in McCulloch's Homestead Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, in Allen County, Indiana.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Anderson, Executive Director

organization ARCH, Inc.

date November 30, 1979

street & number Box 1383

telephone (219) 743-5117

city or town Fort Wayne

state Indiana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 15, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Major Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3
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